

DEC 11 2006

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 12, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 USC 102 and claims 6 and 7 under 35 USC 103. These rejections are fully traversed below.

Claims 9, 10, 19, 29 and 30 have been cancelled. Claims 37-41 have been added. Thus, claims 1-8, 11-18, 20-28 and 31-41 are pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

*Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 & 103*

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Dowling* (6,888,322).

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dowling*.

In contrast to *Dowling*, claim 1 (and its dependents) specifically requires, "... the indicator assembly being configured to produce an indicator image at an outer surface of the housing when activated..." While *Dowling* may disclose systems and methods for color changing device and enclosure, *Dowling* does not teach or suggest creating an indicator image. In the present invention, the indicator image is created by directing light onto a small region or point of an extended surface of the housing. See for example Figs. 40 and 41A-41B, which shows one example of an indicator image that is focused on an extended surface of a housing. Furthermore, as stated in paragraph 194 of the present invention, "...Although the description thus far has been primarily directed at illuminating larger portions of a housing, in some cases, it may only be desirable to illuminate a small portion of the housing. This may be useful for indicators that indicate events associated with the system in which they are used. By way of example, the events may relate to signals, conditions or status of the system...." In addition, as stated in paragraph 198, "...As shown in Figs. 41A and 41B, the indicator image 762 appears on the surface of the housing 756 when the indicator is on, and it disappears from the surface of the housing 756 when the indicator is off. One advantage of this type of indicator is that there is no trace of the indicator 760 when the indicator 760 is off. The indicator 760 only exists when the indicator 760 is turned on..." See also paragraph 2004, which discusses shaped images. No such

APL1P215X1/P2698X1US

8

arrangement is described in *Dowling*. *Dowling* simply provides no evidence of illuminating a small portion of a housing and further creating an indicator image at the surface of the housing. Accordingly, the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Although the rejections to the dependent claims should be withdrawn for at least the reasons as above, it should be noted that they offer additional language that is unsupported by the art. With regards to the Examiner's comments concerning claims 6 and 7, it should be emphasized that *Dowling* is completely silent to selectively directing light to a specific area thus the obviousness rejection is improper.

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 11 2006

Summary

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



C. Douglass Thomas, Reg. No. 32,947  
for Quin C. Hoellwarth, Reg. No. 45,738

P.O. Box 70250  
Oakland, CA 94612-0250